

ORIGIN AND DOCTRINES OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

The government was organized under the constitution, at the city of New York in the spring of 1789. The first congress assembled in that city on the 1st of March of that year. The result of the presidential election having been ascertained, and General Washington notified of his election, he appeared and was inaugurated on the 30th of April, 1789. John Adams

The convention that framed this constitution had not been unanimous in its action. Some leading members, refusing to sign it, took it with their signatures; and strenuous opposition was made to its ratification in the states. The ratification

ponents insisting that too much power was given by it to the federal government, that the grants of power were in language too vague, and that it constituted a monarchy in disguise, which would soon absorb all supremacy, subordinate the sovereignty of the states and consolidate their into centralized despotism destructive of the liberties of the people. On the other side the constitution was not only insisted on as it was, but the

It was made to enlarge the powers of the federal government by the constitution of implied and constructive powers, and thus giving it greater force and vigor against the States. This division of opinion about the constitution was carried over to the congress that assembled under it; one side insisting upon amendments and a strict construction of the grants of power to the federal government, and the other side upon

struction of its provisions. Washington's cabinet was equally divided on the subject. Hamilton and Knox took the one side of the constitution as it was, insisting upon it with implied constructive powers; and Jefferson and Randolph the other side, insisting upon amendments and modifications of the constitution. This difference of opinion divided the people of the country: those who advocated the constitution, and even latitudinarian construction of its provisions. Washington's cabinet was equally divided on the subject. Hamilton and Knox took the one side of the constitution as it was, insisting upon it with implied constructive powers; and Jefferson and Randolph the other side, insisting upon amendments and modifications of the constitution. This difference of opinion divided the people of the country: those who advocated the constitution, and even latitudinarian construction of its provisions.

stitution as it was, enlarged by limited and constructive powers, were called federalists, and those of the other side, who, although they were in favor of a general government, were opposed to a destruction of the supremacy of states over internal and local affairs, were called anti-federalists. This was the first division of the country into parties. (See Statesman's Manual, Vol. I, p. 171. Jefferson called the anti-federalist

publicans, and some called them democrats; so that the anti-federalists were called republicans in some states and democrats in other states. Originally, therefore, the republican party and the democratic party were the same thing, only differently named in different states. Jefferson, the most prominent founder, always called it the republican party. (See Jefferson's *Complete Works*, Vol. 3, p. 491) But in the course of time the name

The first presidential contest between the federal party and the democratic or republican party took place in 1796, when John Adams was

ated president, and Jefferson, being the next highest in the votes, was elected to the constitution then stood) elected vice-president. But at the election of 1800, Jefferson beat Adams and was elected president. After this the democratic-republican doctrine prevailed for a series of years, although the federalists did not cease to contest its ascendancy. Jefferson was re-elected in 1804 and was succeeded by Madison in 1809.

who was re-elected in 1812; and Monroe was elected in 1816. After 1816 the federal party disbanded and replaced its organization, and Monroe was re-elected in 1820 without an organized opposition. But the doctrine of the federal party was still advocated by leading men and newspapers, and prevailed with every political party raised and organized to oppose the democracy, although under a variety of different names. In 1824 the congressional

cus, which had previously nominated the democratic-republican ticket for the presidency, made no nomination, and four candidates Henry Clay, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson and William H. Crawford were candidates before the people. The consequence was that the election devolved on the house of representatives, by which John Quincy Adams was elected. In 1828 Andrew Jackson was elected president over Adams.

Adams. And in 1832 the opposition to the democratic party appeared in an organization under the name of the "National Republican Party," and supported a ticket composed of Henry Clay for president and John Sergeant for vice-president. There was also an anti-masonic ticket in this election, composed of William Barker for president and Amos Eliot for vice-president. But Jackson was re-elected on the democratic ticket, with Martin Van Buren for

re-president. In 1836 the opposition to the democracy appeared as a Whig party, and presented three general tickets, on an understanding with the candidates, who were lodged in different sections of the country, to-wit: General Harrison in Ohio, Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, and Hugh L. White from Tennessee. But Mr. Van Buren, the democratic ticket, was elected a large majority. In 1840 the oppo-

on, under the designation of the big party, at a time of great financial distress and a widespread paper-money revulsion, elected General Harrison over Martha Van Buren. In 1844 the democrat party elected James K. Polk over Henry Clay, as the candidate of the whig party.

At this time the abolitionists for the first time appeared in the field with a ticket and ran John G. Birney for president. In 1848 the whigs ran

precursor of the wing party over General Zachary Taylor over Lewis Cass, the democratic candidate. At this election the abolitionists, under the party name of the liberty party, ran John G. Birney, and free-soilers ran Martin Van Buren. In 1852 the democratic party elected Franklin Pierce over General Scott, a whig candidate. At this election abolitionists, under the name of free-soil democracy, ran John P. Hale for president. After the defeat

"I shall not continue my argument," said he with great dignity; "I prefer plead, Your Honors, while you sleep."

"Continue, brother," said the chief-justice, benevolently, "though I am personally constituted and never sleep except when you plead."